

It's About YOUTH

Newsletter of the Utah State Youth Council on Workforce Services – October 2007

Chair's Message

Marie Christman

Greetings to all! With school back in session, I thought it would be timely for me to highlight a resource for youth called Power in You. For those who are not familiar with **Power in You**, it is a nonprofit organization that focuses on the emotional aspect of life challenges to help youth make positive choices and have healthy attitudes through peer-to-peer support, and was initiated by First Lady Mary Kaye Huntsman based on the challenges her daughter experienced in her early teens. She came to the understanding that youth could emotionally benefit by reaching out and serving their peers as well as obtaining support from their peers. I recently had the opportunity to listen to two **Power in You** youth ambassadors share their life stories. I was impressed with their courage to speak publicly, the insight and the strength they gained from their challenges in life and their leadership in helping others.



If you have not had a chance to listen to a **Power in You** presentation I encourage you to do so; whether you are a youth or young adult, or whether you interact with youth, take the time to listen to one! If you are interested in having a **Power in You** assembly at your local high school or if you would like to become involved in **Power in You** or would just like to learn more about it, log on to www.powerinyou.org.

What's Up with the Youth Vision Team?

By Jane Broadhead



Mission: We will enhance the lives of youth we serve by identifying creative solutions to barriers, streamlining services by aligning policies across programs, eliminating duplication and seeking opportunities for collaboration for cost effectiveness, and improving services and outcomes.

Vision: Utah's at-risk youth live successfully as adults.

Utah's Youth Vision Team rolled up their sleeves and began work on the project this quarter. Several members of the team attended the Workforce Innovations conference in Kansas City in July, where they learned from the federal

Youth Vision Team (continued)

partners and other Shared Youth Vision pilot states. They had a chance to discuss issues relating to youth in the Juvenile Justice System and glean ideas about improving services and outcomes for these youth. They also shared information about their progress.

The team held discussions with staff at the Millcreek and Decker Lake Youth Centers. The purpose of these meetings was to inform them of the project, get their input about the direction of the pilot, and ask for their support. Staff members at both centers are enthusiastic about the potential for this project. Enhancements we hope to implement include:

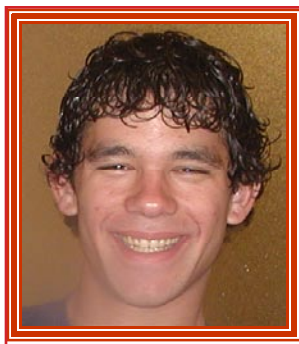
- Career-focused facilities
- Transition back into the community begins when the youth enters the facility, not at exit

- Alignment of policy and practice across youth-serving agencies to prevent duplication and allow efficient use of funds

The Team will add appropriate members as we move forward with the project. Representatives from the following agencies have recently joined:

- Utah State Office of Education, Adult Education, and Special Education
- Department of Human Service, Executive Director's Office
- Management Training Corporation (Job Corps)
- Utah College of Applied Technology; Salt Lake/Tooele Applied Technology College, and Ogden/Weber Applied Technology College
- Department of Workforce Services, Business Services

Outstanding Youth Customer of the Year spotlight



Daniel R. is a dynamic presence among his peers and is a charismatic leader in the community. He has overcome substantial barriers through his motivation and involvement with DWS (and partner services) to improve his situation and achieve his goals. Daniel is a paragon of achievement in personal growth, leadership, education, and career development.

Daniel transitioned out of foster care when he was 18 years old and at the time was facing considerable barriers to success. He had a substance abuse problem and several severe court

charges related to these activities. He lacked occupational and job search skills. He had few supportive relationships to rely on and was often homeless for several months at a time. Daniel initially enrolled in Youth EmployAbility Services in January of 2005. During this early involvement with the program he graduated early from Jordan High School and held several jobs briefly. He struggled with personal issues and homelessness during this time and lost contact with the YES Program. He reenrolled in YES in June of 2007 and since then he has reinvented his life.

Outstanding Youth Customer Spotlight - continued

Daniel has taken every opportunity to personally improve his situation. He completed the foster care system's Transition to Adult Living classes and enrolled in Youth EmployAbility Services. He started meeting with his mentors from the First Presbyterian Church two years ago. He believes that this relationship is one of the best things in his life and he repeatedly expresses gratitude for it. Daniel has conquered his addiction problems and he has freed his life from harmful substances. He has diligently addressed his court obligations and has had all of the charges dismissed or reduced to misdemeanors. In cooperation with his mentor's counsel, Daniel personally resolved these legal issues. Daniel is a regular volunteer at the Crossroads Urban Center with the Food Co-op and he was one of the first youth involved in gaining housing through this project. In order to accomplish his goals Daniel has developed organizational skills and a strong commitment to follow through. He relies on accountability and evaluation to ensure successful endeavors.

Daniel participated in the Summer Youth Opportunities Program (SYOP) through YES and was enrolled in Salt Lake/Tooele Applied Technology College's welding program. This short-term training in a high growth industry will provide him with an opportunity to become financially self-sufficient. He had perfect attendance for the SYOP Kickoff Events and was a shining example of involvement during these activities. He is in the process of enrolling at Salt Lake Community College to begin his pursuit of a law degree. Daniel is energetically completing a professional employment portfolio by participating in career skill development workshops at the YES Program, and by using the Department of Workforce Services electronic job board and Choices Planner. Daniel will use his skills as a Welder to stay self-sufficient while he ambitiously pursues a law degree; as a professional lawyer, he hopes to help youth in the future.

Daniel ensures that there is never a lull in his attention to good works. He has become an advocate for at-risk youth. His involvement and social activism exhibit his enthusiasm to change lives and improve his community. He is vocal about his concern for vulnerable populations. He is eager to contribute his efforts and ideas to improve the quality of life for marginalized groups, especially youth aging out of foster care. He has grown from his mistakes and is eager to help others find a better path. Daniel is involved in several outstanding community service and leadership efforts including Youth EmployAbility Service Leadership Council, monthly volunteering for the Cross Roads Urban Center Food Co-Op, and a Mission Service Trip with the First Presbyterian Church to assist homeless young adults in Las Vegas.

Daniel sees the potential that can be realized through change. He has dedicated his efforts to improving the lives of other youth in his former situation. He holds the position of Youth Assistant for the First Presbyterian Mentoring Project where his duties include contributing to the training of mentors and facilitating youth mentee orientation. This Mentoring Program is quickly expanding, in cooperation with Transition to Adult Living program; the program hopes to triple the number of youth involved this year! Most recently Daniel has been expanding his outreach efforts. He was interviewed on KUER News by Tasha Cook about the difficulties facing those aging out of foster care and about his eventual success resulting from his diligent effort combined with the assistance of partnering youth service providers.

Daniel has the enthusiasm, work ethic, and leadership skills that are necessary in any successful endeavor. He is influential with his peers and inspires those who know him. We have been proud to work with him and are grateful for his contribution to the YES Program.

Regional Youth Spotlights | Western Region

Dustin came to Kanab in June of 2006. He had limited work experience and was having a hard time finding a job. He had dropped out of school after 9th grade because it was boring and it didn't engage him though he was able to complete his GED on his own.

After some attempts to find a suitable job, we came to the realization that Dustin needed additional training. To assist in the job placement we completed a TABE test and found he had a 5.9 grade level in arithmetic but scored above a high school level in reading. We were also able to narrow down his job search to working with or on computers.

After discovering that Dustin's interest and aptitude for computer technology included graphic and web page designing, we set up an internship with Quality Printing, a local company. Dustin performed very well at this internship; he learned new software and about customer interaction. Before the internship was complete, Dustin and his counselor reviewed what additional skills were necessary for him to become a successful computer programmer. Dustin signed up for classes through Learn Key to provide online computer training; the online courses were a good fit for Dustin's learning style.

At the conclusion of the internship, Dustin was offered a full-time position with Quality Printing, which he accepted. He also began to utilize his new knowledge and resources to pursue a career in self-employment, opening a business called Techies, LLC, in Kanab.

Dustin slowly began to build custom computers for individuals and businesses in the area and he began working on an online database store that would enable him to become a retailer to online shoppers. He designed this database and site using skills that he acquired from his Learn Key courses.

Currently Dustin is working full time for himself and continues to work for Quality Printing. He has become a well-known quality resource in the community.

Michael was under state custody in the juvenile justice system when he entered the WIA program at age 16.

Michael's plan included attending Snow College to pursue an associate's degree (Pharmacy Tech). He graduated a year early from high school and at 17 years of age, has a year of his associate's degree completed. He earned a 3.8 GPA his first year and was placed on the dean's list. He was given assistance with tuition and supplies that he needed for school, and he was given support and encouragement as well.

While at Snow last year he was a writing tutor and was also heavily involved with band and chorus. He has reached his goal of being released from the juvenile justice system and moving forward with his life. After he completes another year of school and he will achieve his educational goal.

Michael is currently working to earn money for school next year and to attend a chorus event in New York City this fall with the college. His current employer offered him a management position, but because he was not 18 years old, he couldn't accept it.

Michael has so much desire and determination; we are sure he will accomplish whatever he sets out to do!

Tiffany has spinal bifida, a permanent physical impairment, which causes limited use of her upper body and almost no lower body use, as well as some learning disabilities. When she came to our office she was basic skills deficient and had no occupational skills or goals. She finished high school and through hard work was able to increase her basic skills.

After graduation from North Sanpete High School, she worked on the Summer Youth Opportunity Program at Sanpete Valley Hospital. Tiffany's goal was to work as a receptionist at the hospital, and though there was a job opening about the time her Summer Youth Opportunity concluded, she was not hired. She was disappointed but was very determined to try again. While waiting, she worked with Sanpete Community Training, with help from Vocational Rehabilitation.

She was patient and determined and was hired as a permanent employee of Sanpete Valley Hospital. She is willing to do anything she can to help the staff with the daily business of the hospital. When you call there, you will likely talk to Tiffany first. Even over the phone you can feel her love for life and her excitement to help others.

Tiffany chooses to focus on her strengths. She has a very pleasant personality and loves to greet and help people. She wanted to work in a place where she could use her skills and abilities to help others. She felt that Sanpete Valley Hospital was a perfect match for her.

She would like to take the CNA course from Snow College, and even though she may not have the physical ability to work in that capacity, the class would give her greater understanding of hospital procedures and would help her to be even more empathetic with patients at the hospital who she loves to serve. She wants to do all she can, with the abilities she has.

When **Wendell** was a child he lived in a home filled with domestic violence, and has been involved with DCFS most of his life. He and his mother later left that situation and he was raised in a single parent home from then on.

Some of Wendell's problems stemmed from his desire, and his mother's insistence, that he work to supplement the family income. As a

high school student, he often missed school to take side jobs and as a result he accrued a lot of missed hours that needed to be made up.

Wendell entered the WIA youth program at age 14 and was basic skills deficient at that time. Since his involvement in WIA, he has willingly participated in the leadership projects that have been presented to him over the years and has attended meetings to plan or prepare the youth for upcoming events. He participated in Summer Youth Opportunities and received good reports. We linked him to Vocational Rehab and they also offered him assistance.

During his senior year a youth services worker assisted him with transitioning from one high school to another when he moved from his family home. Wendell went to school early on most days to assist the school janitors. He finished his senior year, but still assisted the janitors for a while even though he was in a paid internship at Intermountain Farmers and also worked at McDonald's. Wendell seems to be doing much better living on his own. For a young person, he has taken a lot of responsibility in setting up housekeeping: getting to school each day, completing previously missed school assignments, holding down two jobs. He is valued at his jobs and stays pleasant and optimistic. On difficult days he has taken the initiative to meet with his youth worker and his employment counselor to get feeling better about things. Impressed by his resilience and work ethic, it was always a pleasure to talk to him and help him work through his decisions.

DWS has been making an effort to educate the public regarding the value of WIA and the goals it has; Wendell and his supervisor at IFA accompanied DWS workers to a Chamber of Commerce meeting to help with that effort. Having him tell his experience with WIA was very touching and helped those in attendance appreciate

what DWS is accomplishing through this great program. His boss has praised the WIA; valuing and keeping Wendell as "his project," he has agreed to hire him full time.

Wendell graduated from Millard High School in May of 2007. He brought a graduation announcement to us, which read, "If it was not

for you guys I would have not made it this far. Thanks for all you guys have done and do for me. You made my life a little easier. Thanks, Wendell." He is considering attending school to become a wildlife officer, but if the IFA job turns into a long term, full-time job, he may reconsider and stay working there. Whatever he decides to do, we know he will be successful.

Regional Youth spotlights | Mountainland Region

Tiffany P.

started working with the WIA Youth Program in July 2004, after being referred to WIA by her DCFS caseworker.

She came to the program seeking guidance and support regarding her employment and academic goals. More specifically, she wanted help with catching up on school credits, gaining work-readiness skills and career guidance.

When Tiffany enrolled in the WIA Program, she was struggling with several barriers that made it difficult for her to obtain her education and employment goals. She had not received some of the high school credits she needed and was not on track to graduate with her class. Tests indicated that she was basic skills deficient. In addition to her academic struggles, Tiffany was also striving to overcome several emotional issues she had as a result of being abused as a child.

Tiffany was able to attain many of her goals with the assistance of WIA paying for high school packets, offering grade incentives, providing tutoring services, offering clothing for job interviews, funding driver's education, and providing assistance with



the college application process. WIA has also assisted Tiffany with job development skills and career exploration.

Within the first year of working with WIA, Tiffany tested four grade levels higher than her initial test and is no longer considered to be basic skills deficient in math. In May of 2005, she successfully completed all the requirements necessary to graduate with her class. She earned her high school diploma and received a scholarship from Summit High School.

Tiffany is well on her way to becoming a successful and independent individual. In spring of 2008, she plans to pursue her academic goals by attending her second semester at Utah Valley State College; she plans to continue working on her generals in preparation for entering the Nursing program there. Tiffany has proven that with persistence and hard work, anything is possible!

Kimberly B. came to the WIA Youth Program severely deficient in high school credits and was an entire year behind her classmates; she had a GPA as low as 0.92. When she was 13 years old, her house was broken into and she was brutally assaulted. The effects of that assault were far-reaching and led Kim to make some bad choices, which eventually resulted in her being removed from her home at age 14 placed in State's custody with the Division of Juvenile Justice Services.

Kim came to our program with a desire to progress her education and employment training. Specifically, she wanted to catch up on school credits so she could graduate with her class; she wanted to improve her GPA so she could be accepted into college; she wanted to gain employment skills to find a job, pay off her court fines, and leave the Juvenile Justice System.



WIA helped Kim reach her goals by paying for high school packets, offering a grade incentive, enrolling her in the Summer Work Simulation Program, creating a resume and cover letter with her, and helping her apply for college and financial aid assistance. WIA also collaborated with Youth Health Associates to ensure that Kim successfully completed therapy that addressed the issues related to her assault.

Kim has gone after her goals with great motivation and enthusiasm. Because of her positive attitude and hard work, she has been able to reach all of her goals and exceed her own expectations. Kim was able to make up all her deficient credits in time to graduate high school with her class in May 2007. She graduated with a 3.7 GPA, and thereby became the first member of her family to graduate from high school. She also earned a scholarship from the Alpine School District to a college of her choice. Kim completed the Work Simulation Program and immediately located employment following her training. She has been working consistently since July 2006, and has saved up enough money to pay off her court fines and meet the requirements necessary for her release from State custody.

Kim successfully completed therapy and has found a way to give back to the community. She has volunteered hundreds of hours to projects

such as the Student Council, Tutoring through Alpine School District, and WIA's own leadership project for Infants in the NICU. Kim continues to set high goals for herself and demonstrates that she is a valuable participant in her community.

After all that she has accomplished, Kim still has more she wants to do. She has been accepted to Utah Valley State College for the upcoming fall semester; she plans on obtaining her paralegal license and continuing on to pre-law.

When **Betty S.** first came into the WIA offices she was on a mission to find funding to become employed in the medical field. At that time she was 16 and pregnant, but she had already graduated early from high school. Her foster care worker had informed her about funding available for higher education, and after that Betty was on her way.

Upon enrolling in the WIA program, Betty set a standard for herself that she was going to get as much done as possible before her baby was born. She enrolled in the Mountainland Applied Technology medical assisting program and finished her classroom hours and some of her testing before the baby was born. She met with her employment counselor regularly to assure that her budget was working out. She had been denied Free Application For Student Aid money that first semester and so she financed the courses, books, and supplies with money from WIA.

Soon Betty finished the paperwork to enroll in Employment Training Vouchers (ETV) and then she finished her testing and began an externship working in an OB/GYN office. She finished her medical assisting certificate and was able to find a job quickly. However, her job required that she complete a certificate for her Certified Nurse's Assistant (CNA) so she found a school and negotiated that the tuition be paid with her ETV funding, attending classes at night.

Betty has since set her sights on becoming an RN and is ready to take the licensing test for her CNA before moving on with her education. She is a woman who can balance job,

schooling, and family with grace. She always follows through; she doesn't let setbacks and discouragement stop her.

Regional Youth Spotlights | Northern Region

Bear River

Hector L. was enrolled in the WIA Youth Program in November 2006, as a 19-year-old, out of school youth with domestic violence and basic skills



issues. His work history was very sporadic, and he had moved from job to job trying to find work that he enjoyed and where he would be able to support himself and his family. He had a desire to work with troubled youth because of his own past experiences. Hector was placed at DWS on a paid internship in May of 2007 where he was able to learn more about computers, customer service, and communication skills. Hector then applied for, interviewed for, and was offered a full time job with Vocational Rehabilitation working with their migrant services program. With skills he learned at DWS, his bilingual skills, and his personal commitment to his new job, he will make a wonderful employee for the state.

Mario Q has been with the WIA Youth Program for a little over one year. He started out a little unsure of what he wanted to do, but he then extended himself and found a job at Pepsi Cola to support himself while he decided what to do regarding school.

ogy College. It was not an easy start for him, but his teachers report each month on his progress and his exceptional commitment to learning the material. His progress reports show that he has improved much since beginning the program.

Also, Mario found a job as a Machinist 1, at Medicine Lodge where is making \$13.75 per hour full-time! We are very excited for Mario and his success. He plans to complete the Machining program in approximately one year.

Brittany A., a 20-year-old single mom, joined the WIA Youth Program in Logan in February of this year. It took her a few months, but she recently completed her GED, and she is now excited about the opportunity to find better employment and more pay as a result of her accomplishment! Brittany has moved her life forward despite the obstacles she has faced: being a single parent, assisting her mother who is disabled, working to support herself, not having a car, and not having a driver's license. She is now beginning a driver's education course and looking forward to how that will help her be more self-reliant.

Karin M. joined the WIA Youth Program in Logan in April 2007. She is 20 years old and living on her own. She wanted to participate in the Summer Youth Employment Program for a chance to gain more experience working with people in an office setting. Karin was placed with CAPSA working in their office as an office support person. CAPSA reported to me that she has amazing computer skills and that she would be a great asset to any office.

Layton Student Finds Career and Life Success Through Clearfield Job Corps

by Clearfield Job Corps Staff

After bouncing from job to job with no end in sight and being unsatisfied with his financial outcome, 19-year-old Layton resident **Chad D.** knew he needed a change.

He was admittedly a pretty shy individual before entering the Job Corps training program, but the Job Corps experience gave him the skills and emotional stability to “break out” of his shyness and find success.

Knowing that he needed more than just a high school diploma, Chad decided to join Job Corps to learn skills needed to be truly successful in today’s growing economy.

“Job Corps was a good place for me to learn the skills I needed to continue on into college,” Chad said.

Chad completed Job Corps’ computer repair trade program in five months then enrolled in classes at Weber State University, where he is working toward a Bachelors’ Degree in engineering.

By 2012, he sees himself working for a company that will allow him to expand on his ideas in new technology. Since Chad joined Clearfield Job Corps, he has used the skills he’s acquired from the Information Technology Trade Group to learn A++ certification (for computer repair and troubleshooting) and C++ certification (programming languages for computers) on his own time.

An Executive Industry Council member for Job Corps, Chad’s Father, Darren, encouraged his son to take advantage of the opportunities afforded to him by the Job Corps experience, such as culinary arts, health occupations, machining, and welding, construction, and advanced training from the United Auto Workers (UAW).

Chad’s father, Darren D., hires graduates at his local business, Cleasby Manufacturing, knowing the high potential for success that exists for graduates of the Job Corps program, and knowing the valuable skills the graduates bring to the table for his business,

Twenty years of being involved with Clearfield Job Corps’ advisory council gave Chad’s father the forethought to encourage his son to take advantage of opportunities available at Job Corps, and after entering the program in January 2007, in just six months Chad was able to finish the program and move on to Weber State University to further his education. With Chad’s new skills, he now has the freedom to choose where he will go in life and the wisdom to know which decision will bring him the best benefit.

“Job Corps gave Chad the ability to focus on school and career,” said Darren D. “He didn’t know where to go or which direction to take before Job Corps. He wasn’t really doing anything with himself. Now he’s going to college. He’s really focused now on a career goal, not just a job.”

Regional Youth Spotlights | Central Region



Teaira S. is a young lady who understands the value of working hard to achieve success. Teaira enrolled in the Youth EmployAbility Services (YES) Program in July 2006 and had no job

experience when the YES Program started assisting her with paid internships and high school completion to gain employable job skills.

Teaira hated attending high school and was wondering if it was really worth the effort to graduate or if she should just find employment that did not require an education.

Teaira participated in the Summer Youth Opportunities Program (SYOP) with YES and completed Forklift Training with the Salt Lake Community College Skills Center. She completed a paid internship with the Bureau of Land Management where she completed campground maintenance (fire pit upkeep, site cleanup), building maintenance, fence repair and construction, fence building (using both wood and metal materials), trail development (inspection maintenance and development of hiking and horseback trails on BLM land).

Teaira had 100% attendance during her paid internship and was always on time – something that had been very hard for her in the past. She displayed a positive attitude toward the many different jobs she was asked to perform. She never complained and strove to exceed expectations. She was excited to get to the BLM sites in the morning and was sad when it was time to leave. She was friendly and outgoing with the staff and supervisors at the BLM sites. She was always dressed appropriately by wearing the proper clothing, boots, and hat. She earned the respect of the BLM crewmembers and is volunteering her time on weekends to assist at the Wild Horse and Burro Center.

During this paid internship Teaira realized that a high school education is very important for her career choices. She has been offered a position working with the BLM upon her completion of high school and she now knows the importance of earning her high school diploma. Teaira is now attending Tooele High School as a senior and will be working just as hard in school this year as she did this summer so she can graduate in June 2008. Her life has been anything but easy and that is pre-

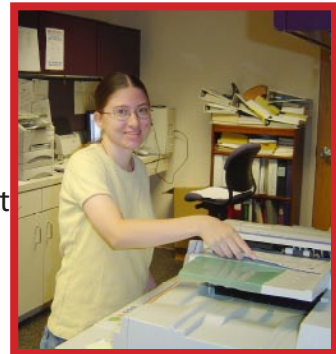
cisely why she is working to attain her diploma. She knows that education will take her anywhere that she aspires to go.

Shawna G., wife, and mother of three, has been in the YES program since May 2004. Since then, she has worked very hard to complete her GED, and has continued on to obtain her high school diploma. She is currently attending Salt Lake Community College (SLCC) in cosmetology and has maintained a 3.0 GPA or better. She is on track to graduate from SLCC in 2008. She is currently working as a cashier while attending school, and her husband is also in the YES program. He hopes to have his GED soon.

Helen F. is an individual who strongly believes in making a difference in the community, and she actively looks for opportunities to serve and to develop her leadership skills. Helen is the primary caregiver for her disabled mother; she has chosen to learn and grow from the obstacles she faces. She graduated from West Jordan High School in June of 2004, enrolling in YES in August 2006.

The YES Program is assisting Helen with her occupational skills training. As part of that training, she participated in the Summer Youth Employment Opportunities (SYEO) program with YES and completed the

Customer Service/Office Clerk offered by the Salt Lake Community College Skills Center. As a participant in the SYEO she completed an internship at Valley Mental Health where she performed many duties: greeting the public, answering phones, entering data, collating and assembling Valley Mental Health packets, phoning clients to remind them of their



appointments, preparing forms for ordering supplies, and cleaning the toddler play area.

During the past year Helen has been involved with the YES Leadership Council and has assisted in organizing leadership and service projects and in recruiting volunteers. Since August 2006, she has preformed 88.25 hours of leadership and community service. During the SYOP she was the sole YES participant who had 100% attendance in her train-

ing, internship, and leadership component. Due to Helen's hard work and dedication at Valley Mental Health, she may receive a full time position there. Helen understands the importance of and need for an education. She will continue her studies in the accounting clerk field at Salt Lake Community College Skills Center. She is dedicated to improving her life through service and education as she works hard at achieving her personal and life goals.

Regional Youth Spotlights | Eastern Region

Britney is an amazing, hardworking, goal-oriented youth. She has not had an easy life and has worked hard to be where she is at today.

Britney grew up in an unstable environment. When Britney was in Kindergarten her mother was diagnosed with schizophrenia. At the time, Britney really didn't know what was wrong with her mother. She would see her hitting things and throwing things around; she knew her mother was sick. Her mother showed her on the clock how to tell when it was time to go to school. She was responsible to get herself ready and walk to school. There were many days of school she didn't attend. She never finished Kindergarten.

Through the years she had to be very independent. She would fix her own meals, and often her meals consisted of cold cereal and milk. Britney also cared for a younger sister in the home as much as she could. Her father has never been a part of her life.

Britney says she is indebted to her grandmother who has always been there for her. She encouraged her to want more out of life, to graduate from high school, and to get some occupational training.

Britney has been diagnosed with dysthymic disorder/anxiety, which affects her ability to work. Her diagnosed condition affects her interpersonal skills, self-confidence, self-image, stability and consistency of behavior. She also has a reading disorder that affects the amount of time it takes her

to learn, process, and retain information. She has not let this stop her from succeeding at her goals. She has graduated from high school and is now attending cosmetology school.

Britney has proven what a hard worker she is—she obtained her first job when she was 16-years-old—and she has worked in fast food, as a life-guard, and as a waitress/hostess. Sometimes she has worked more than one job at a time.

Britney has a one-year-old son that is very important to her. When she was applying for WIA Youth she wrote the following: "It can sometimes be overwhelming when I feel I have so little time to spend with my baby boy and no time to clean my house for my hard working boyfriend. With a schizophrenic, drug abusing, neglecting mother and no father, my choices are limited when it comes to finding a babysitter, so I put him in the hands of a daycare with people I don't know, hoping and praying that he receives the best of care and love. I'm a hard working, honest person who likes a challenge and doesn't easily give up."

Britney will be finishing the cosmetology program this fall with the help of the WIA Youth Program. The instructors at the school like her and are impressed with the way she presents herself. They say she is easy to get along with and is making great progress. She is looking forward to her graduation and being a cosmetologist. She is preparing herself to have a wonderful career with the skills she is

The State Youth Council meets as part of the State Council on a quarterly basis.

The next meeting will be held in January 2008.

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities by calling (801) 526-9240. Individuals with speech and/or hearing impairments may call Relay Utah by dialing 711. Spanish Relay Utah: 1-888-346-3162.

Contact Information:

If you have questions regarding youth services or youth programs, please contact the youth specialist in your area:

Northern: Julie Anderson, julieanderson@utah.gov

Mountainland: Zenaida Martinez, zmartinez@utah.gov

Central: Rod Barlow, rbarlow@utah.gov

Western: Ann Barnson, abarso@utah.gov

Eastern: Tami Huntington, thunting@utah.gov

If you have questions regarding Regional Youth Councils in your area or your Regional Council, please contact the Regional Council Coordinator in your area:

Northern: Susan Wright, susanwright@utah.gov

Mountainland: Julie Lay, jlay@utah.gov

Central: Cassy Hahn, chahn@utah.gov

Eastern: Bob Gilbert, bobgilbert@utah.gov

Western: Lorri Economy, leconomy@utah.gov

The test and the use of man's education is that he finds pleasure in the exercise of his mind.

- Jacques Barzum, Dean of Graduate School,
Columbus University